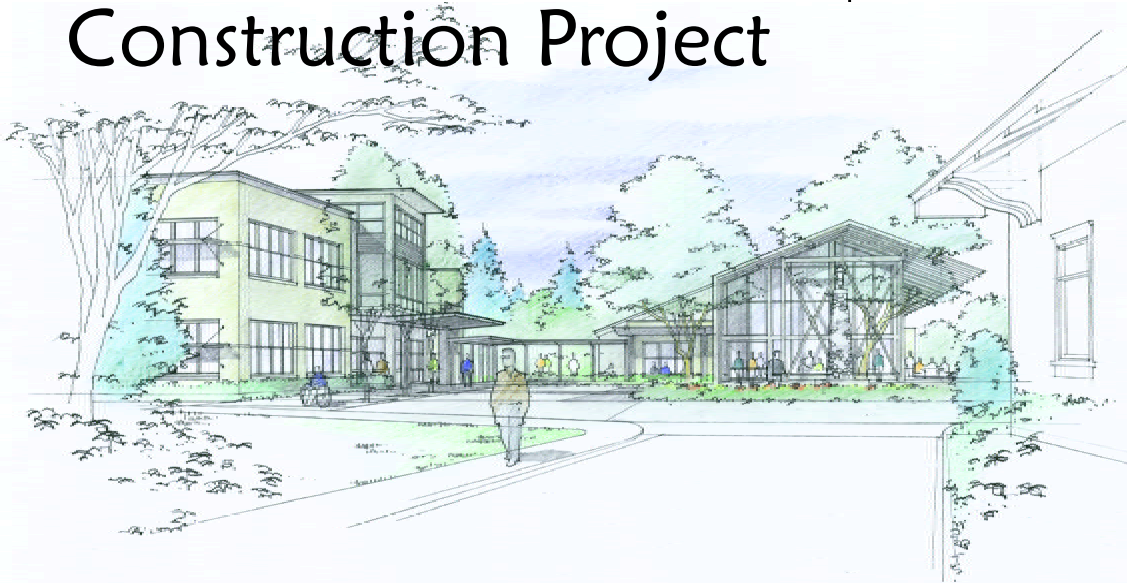


Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs

WA Veterans Home Construction Project



Proposed 240-bed skilled nursing facility at the Washington Veterans Home at Retsil

The estimated capital cost for the new skilled nursing facility at Retsil is \$47.8 million. The state has provided \$16.7 million and the Federal VA is providing a 65 percent match.

This construction project is supported by the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC), the Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC) and the major Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) in the state – such as the American Legion, VFW, DAV, VVA, AMVETS, American Ex-POWs and the National Association of Black Veterans.

There are currently 670,000 veterans living in Washington state. Over the next 20 years, the number of veterans aged 65 and over is expected to increase by 20,000; those 85 and over will increase by 226 percent; and the number of Vietnam-era veterans will comprise nearly 40 percent of the overall veteran population.

A 1998 Service Delivery & Capital Planning Feasibility Study found the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) must invest in new nursing care facilities at the state veterans homes in order to meet earthquake standards and life-safety requirements.

WDVA proposed a Statewide Master Plan addressing the long-term care needs for Washington State's veterans. The 2001 Washington State Legislature provided \$16.7 million dollars allowing WDVA to apply for the 65% match from the Federal VA. The match was approved in December 2001 and WDVA began work on facility design.

The Construction Team defined the characteristics of desired programs and other nursing facilities that drove the entire design process. The Design Precepts are:

- ◆ Create a state-of-the-art facility
- ◆ Provide a non-institutional facility that fosters aging in place.
- ◆ Balance respect for privacy with need for socialization
- ◆ Design outdoor spaces that enhance the quality of life for residents and staff
- ◆ Build a facility that attracts and retains staff.

Governor Gary Locke and Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Anthony J. Principi – along with several hundred Veterans Home residents, staff and State Veteran Leaders – will participate in the official groundbreaking on May 16, 2003.

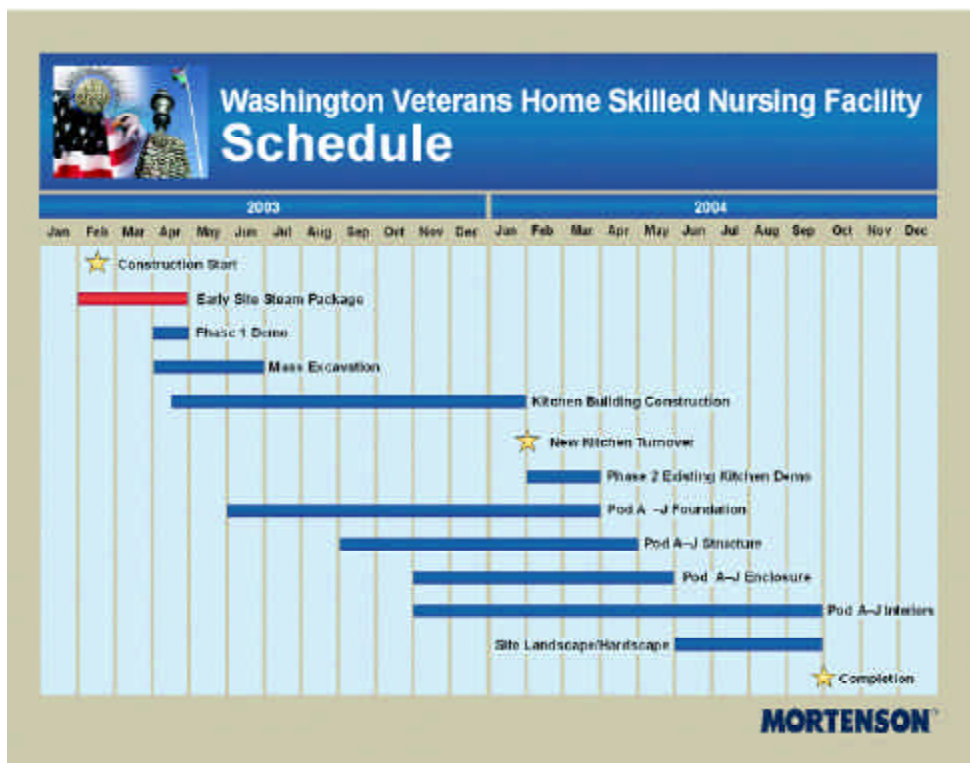
WDVA is pursuing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED Certification, for the project. WDVA and the Architect & Engineering Firm, NBBJ, have included numerous items that contribute to the future sustainability of the facility and utilize environmentally friendly building practices. These include:

- ◆ A Natural Cooling system, rather than conventional mechanically cooled air.
- ◆ Utilization of reclaimed water for irrigation needs.
- ◆ Selection of materials from natural locally manufactured products.
- ◆ Use of bio-swales to address storm water run-off.
- ◆ Use of recycled building materials, including recycled steel.

Room Layout



- Shared rooms will be divided by a solid wall, rather than traditional curtains.
- Each resident will have a window that opens.
- Rooms will be carpeted, creating a more home-like environment.
- Residents will live in “neighborhoods”, sharing common dining and gathering areas. Outdoor courtyards between neighborhoods will serve as extensions of resident living areas, offering residents the option of enjoying the outdoors.



The project is scheduled to be complete in the spring of 2005.

For every dollar WDVA spends on providing care in the homes, it collects three federal/local dollars. Conversely, veterans not receiving care in a state veterans home actually costs the state – and their families – *more* money when those veterans are placed in other community settings.

Construction Partners

Project Management: GA

Architect & Engineering: NBBJ

General Contractor/Construction Manager: Mortenson